

2005 ATV/Motorbike User Survey

Research by Frank Achana, PhD

During August and September of 2005 the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a statewide ATV/Motorbike User Survey. Results should help the department determine user needs and preferences.

IDPR selected 2,000 ATV/Motorbike users at random from its registration database. Those users received a mailing asking if they would like to take part in the survey. They had the choice of going immediately to the Internet and taking the survey on a password-protected site or dropping a postage-paid card in the mail to receive a printed survey.

A total of 285 ATV/Motorbike users from the registration database of IDPR chose to participate through the Internet, while 51 returned printed surveys. This gives us a total of 336 valid surveys which can produce a 95 percent confidence level at plus or minus 4 percent for a total population of 100,000 ATV/Motorbike users in the registration database of IDPR.

OHV Use on Public Lands by Owners: Descriptive Statistics (Total N=336)

Even though the survey sample design was intended to include a mixture of OHV owners registered with IDPR and the general public (including non-owners and non-users of OHVs), the final sample was made up of 90.2% of OHV users and 88.1% of OHV owners. Consequently, the results overwhelmingly reflected the views and patterns of use of OHV owners and users in Idaho. Any outstanding differences of the few non-users and non-owners from OHV users and owners did not have the critical mass needed for credible comparisons to be made, and the differences only served as 'aberrations' to owner/user statistics.

In the current analysis therefore, only the results of those who stated that they were owners of OHVs (88.1% of the sample), were included.

1. How much would you be willing to pay for the convenience of an online registration of your OHV(s)?

Interpretation of mean: 1=\$0 2=\$1 3=\$2 4=\$3 5=\$4 6=\$5

The mean was: 1.87. This means that OHV owners are will to pay **about one dollar** for the convenience of registering their OHVs online (N=202).

2. Given that the current yearly OHV registration fee per vehicle is \$10, how much would you be willing to pay for OHV registration to further improve OHV services (OHV safety training and education, OHV area development, maintenance and management).

The mean was \$12.39 (N=254).

3. What is your level of riding skill for your primary OHV?

Interpretation of mean: 1= Beginner and 10= Expert.

The mean was 7.62 (N=295).

4. How big an issue (*extent of impact on resources*) are OHV-user-created cross-country trails in the recreation areas where you regularly recreate on public lands?

Interpretation of mean: 1= No resource impact and 7= Extreme resource impact.

The mean was 2.95 (N=292).

5. What was your age on your last birthday?

The mean was 49.51 years (N=187)

6. What is the highest level of formal education you have attained to date?

Interpretation of mean:

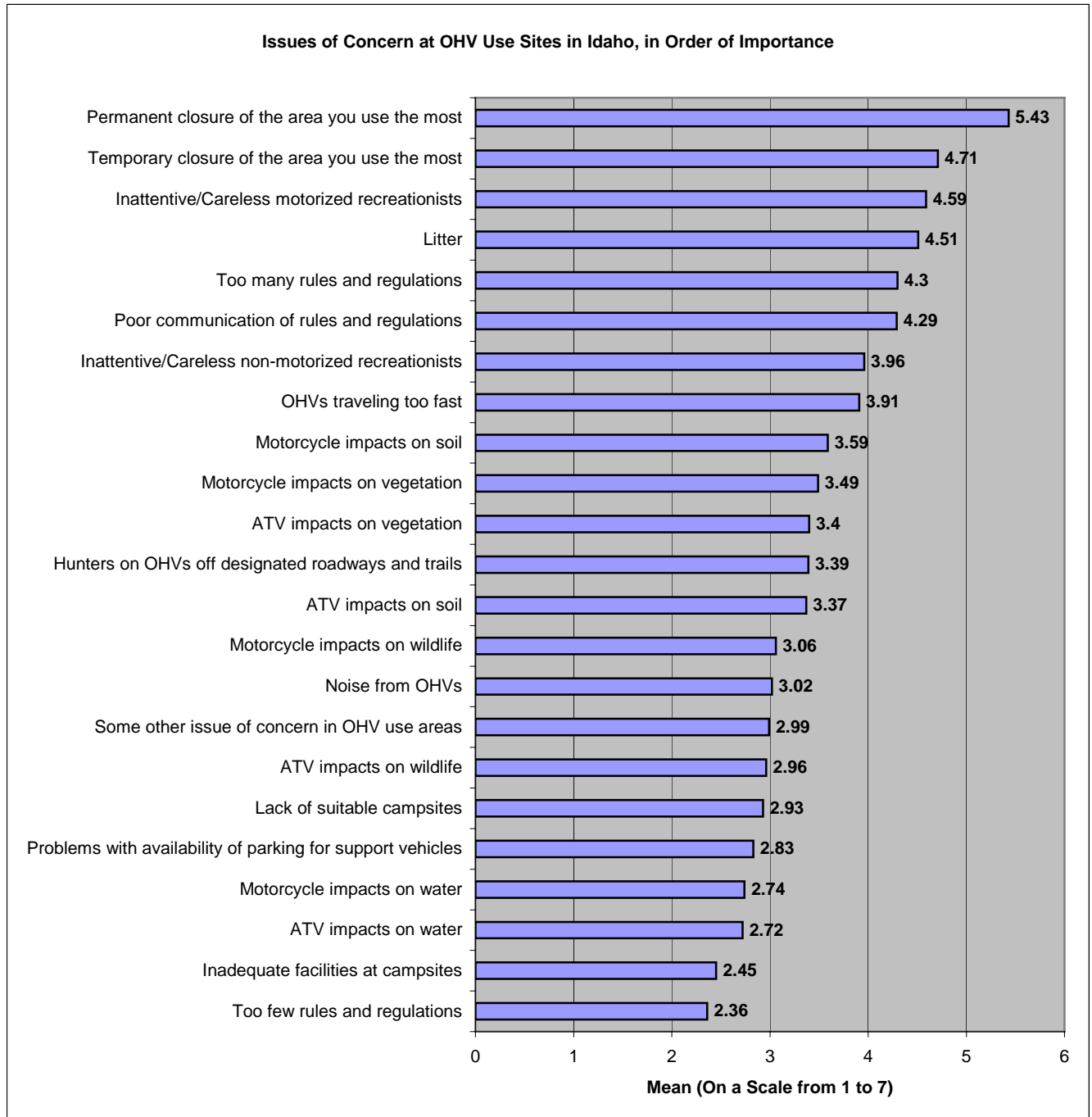
- 1= No GED or High School Diploma
- 2= GED or High School Diploma
- 3=Trade/Vocational School
- 4=Some College
- 5=College Degree
- 6= Graduate Degree

The mean was 4.04, which means Some College education (N=291).

Issues of Concern for OHV Owners, at Use Sites in Idaho, by Order of Importance

Using the scale on which 1=Not an Issue, and 7=A Serious Issue, to what extent is each of the following an issue of concern at the recreation areas that you most frequently use?

Figure 1



Full Texts of Labels in the “Issues of Concern at OHV Sites” in Figure 1 Above

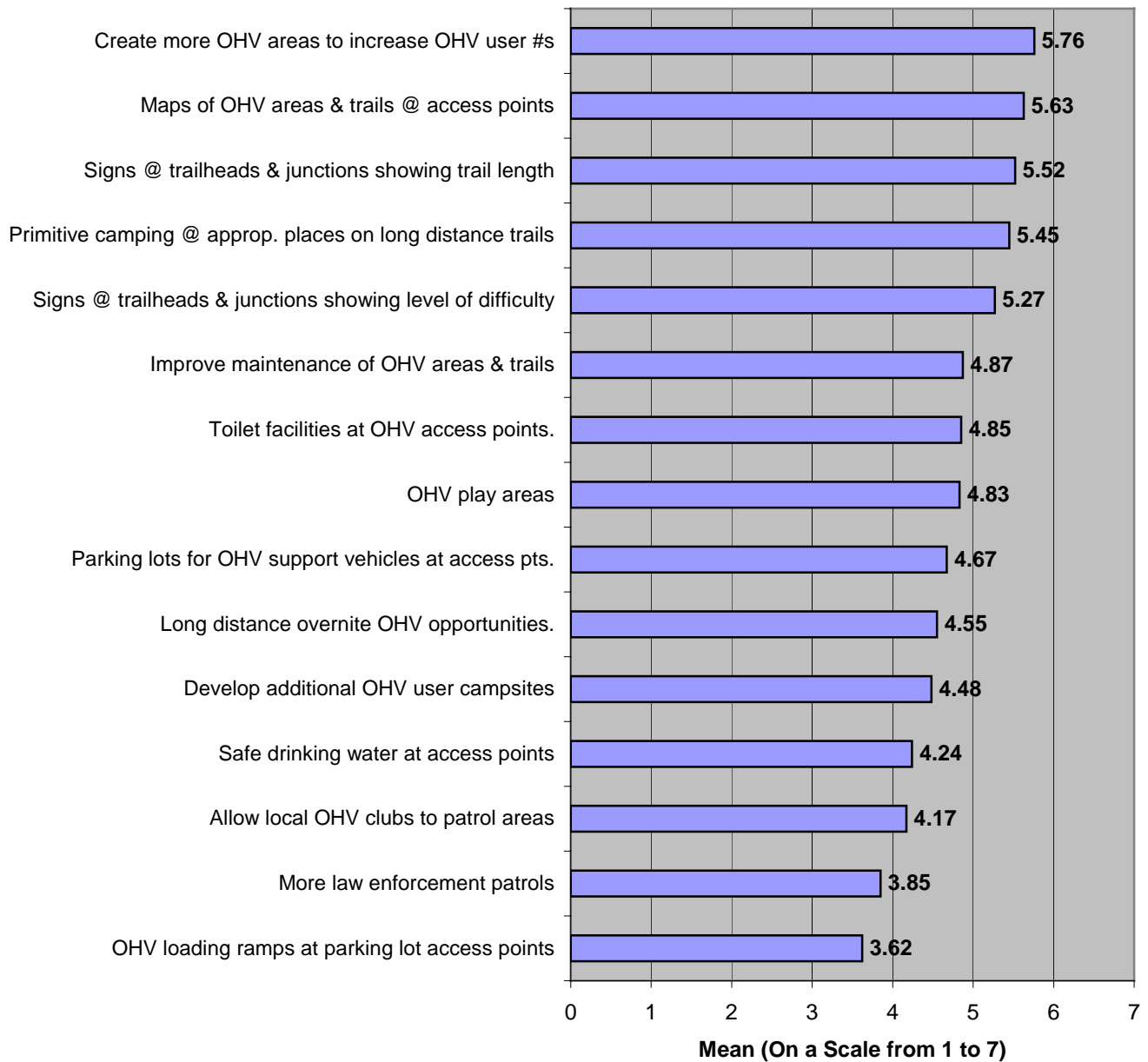
- Permanent closure of the area you most frequently use, due to damage
- Temporary closure of the area you most frequently use, due to damage
- Inattentive/Careless motorized recreationists
- Litter

- Too many rules and regulations
- Poor communication of rules and regulations
- Inattentive/Careless non-motorized recreationists
- OHVs traveling too fast
- Motorcycle impacts on soil
- Motorcycle impacts on vegetation
- ATV impacts on vegetation
- Hunters using OHVs off designated roadways and trails during the hunting season
- ATV impacts on soil
- Motorcycle impacts on wildlife
- Noise from OHVs
- Some other issue of concern in OHV use areas
- ATV impacts on wildlife
- Lack of suitable campsites
- Problems with availability of parking space for your support vehicle at access points
- Motorcycle impacts on water
- ATV impacts on water
- Inadequate facilities at campsites
- Too few rules and regulations

Using the scale on which 1=Strongly Oppose, and 7=Strongly Support, indicate your level of Support or Opposition to the following suggested management actions, aimed at improving recreation experiences and reducing visitor conflicts and resource impacts.

Figure 2.

**Your Level of Support/Opposition to Management Actions to Improve
Recreation Experiences and Reduce Visitor Conflicts and Resource Impacts**



**Full Texts of Labels in the “Support/Opposition to Management Actions”
in Figure 2 Above**

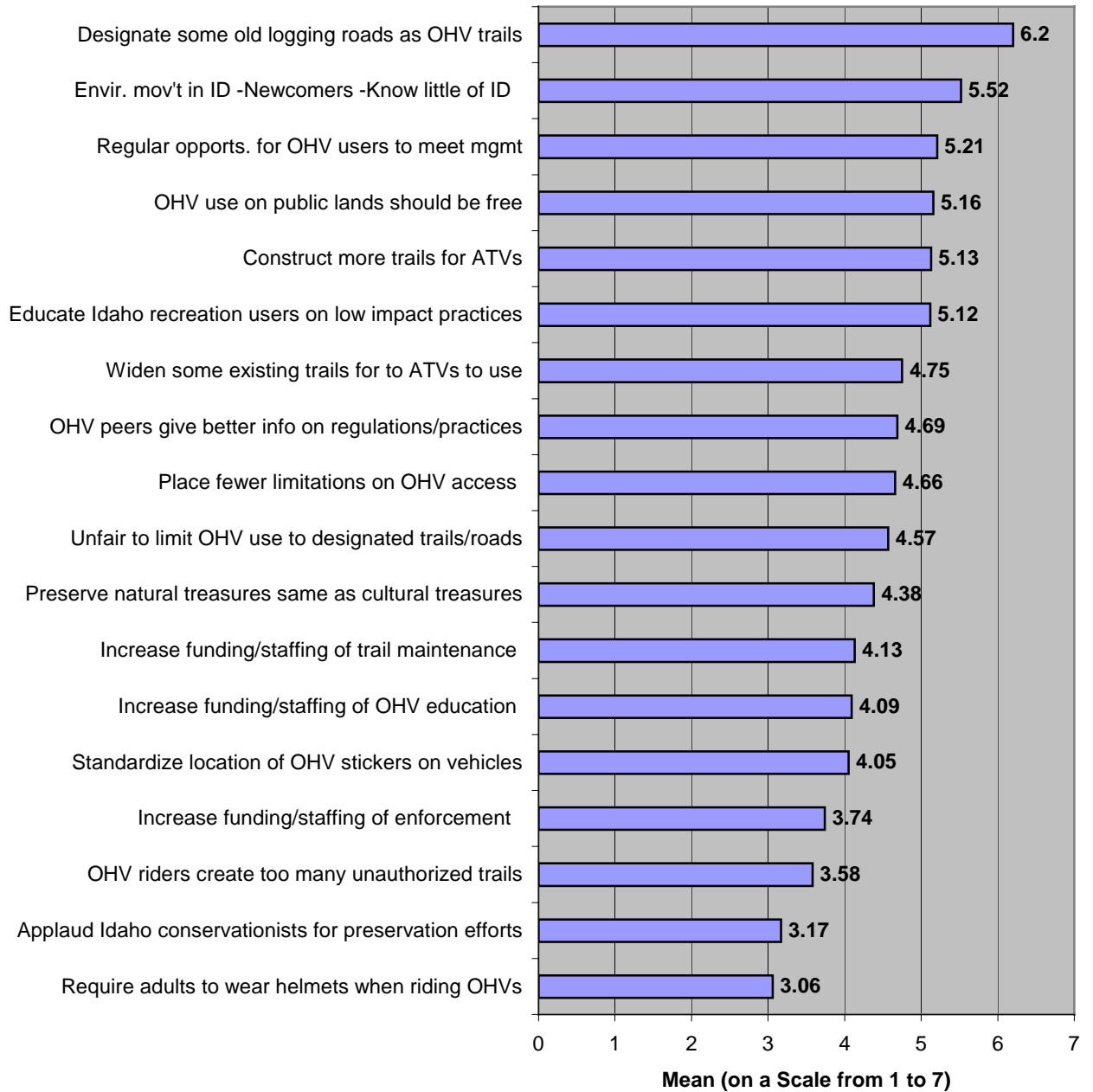
- Allow increase in OHV user numbers on public lands by creating more areas where OHVs can go
- Provide maps of OHV areas and trails at access points

- Provide signs at trailheads and trail junctions indicating trail length
- Permit primitive camping at appropriate places along long distance OHV trails
- Provide signs at trailheads and trail junctions indicating the level of difficulty of trails
- Improve the maintenance of OHV areas and trails
- Provide toilet facilities at OHV access points
- Provide OHV play areas
- Provide parking lots for OHV support vehicles at access points
- Provide long distance, overnight OHV riding opportunities
- Develop additional campsites designed specifically for OHV users
- Provide safe drinking water at OHV access points
- Provide for patrol of OHV areas by local OHV clubs
- Provide more law enforcement patrols at OHV areas
- Provide OHV loading ramps at parking lot access points

Using the **scale on which 1=Strongly Disagree, and 7=Strongly Agree**, indicate **your level of Agreement or Disagreement** with to the following **management actions**, that **could improve Recreation Experiences and Reduce Visitor Conflicts and Resource Impacts**.

Figure 3.

Your Level of Agreement/Disagreement with Management Actions that could Improve Recreation Experiences and Reduce Visitor Conflicts and Resource Impacts



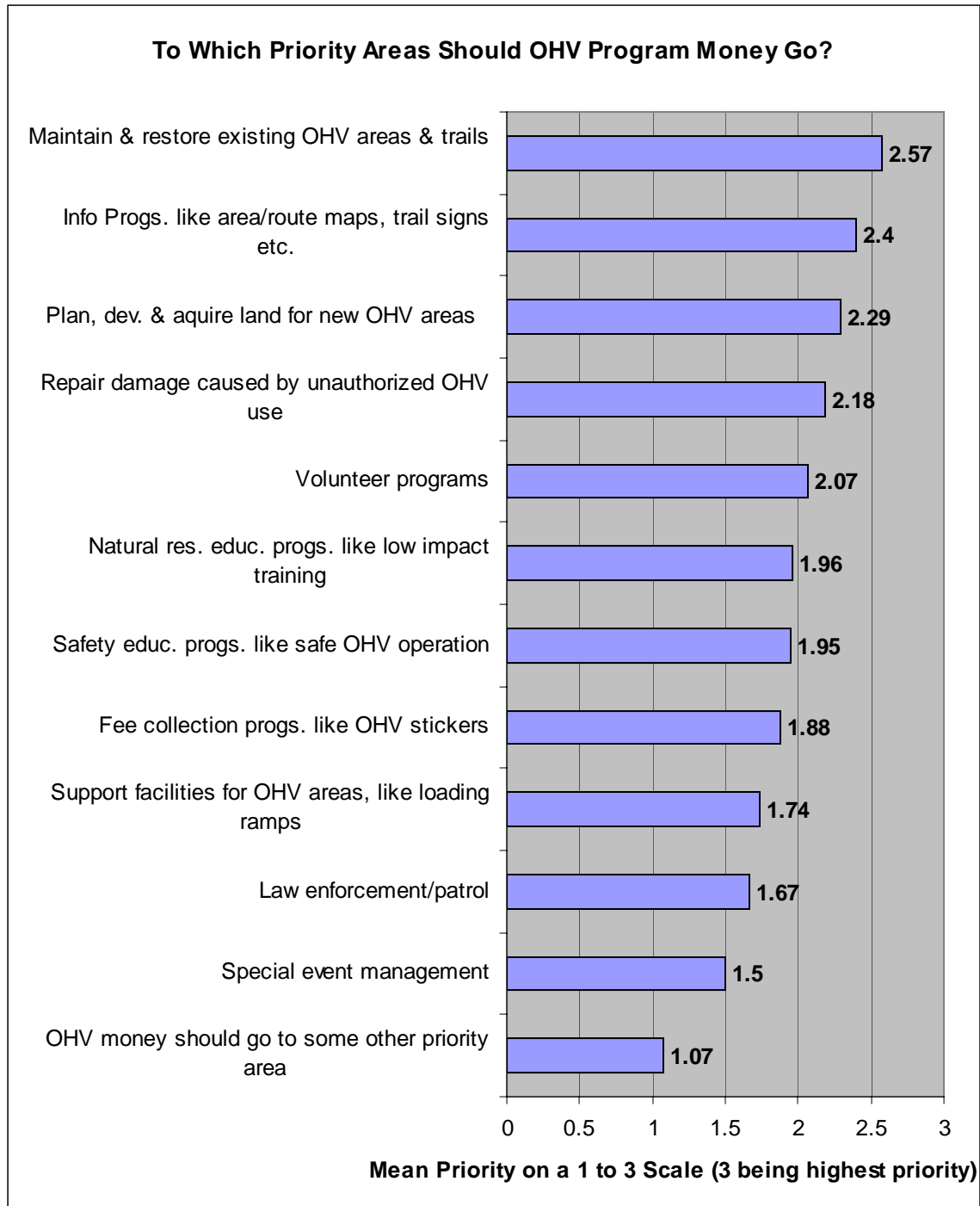
Full Texts of Labels in the “Agreement/Disagreement” with some Management Actions” in Figure 3 Above

- Designate some old logging roads as OHV trails.
- The environmental movement in Idaho is made up of mainly of new-comers to Idaho

- with little knowledge of local conditions, who want to impose their views on local residents concerning what needs to be preserved.
- There is a need to provide regular opportunities for OHV users to meet with recreation management staff about OHV management issues.
 - OHV use on public lands should be free.
 - Land management agencies should construct more trails for ATV use on Idaho public lands.
 - Educate Idaho public land recreation users on low impact practices.
 - Land management agencies should widen some existing trails in Idaho to enable ATVs to use them.
 - I get better information on OHV regulations and "good OHV practices" from my peers in my OHV user groups than from public recreation agencies.
 - Fewer limitations should be placed on OHV access to public lands because excessive limitations are fueling cross-country trail pioneering by some OHV users
 - Limiting OHV use to designated trails and roads would unfairly restrict the activity
 - We should preserve our natural treasures (wilderness, forests, wild rivers etc.) in the same way that we preserve our cultural and heritage treasures
 - Increased funding and staffing of maintenance of trails is the most effective way to manage damage caused by OHV activities on public lands.
 - Increased funding and staffing of OHV education is the most effective way to manage damage caused by OHV activities on public lands.
 - Standardize location of OHV stickers on vehicles.
 - Increased funding and staffing of enforcement is the most effective way to manage damage caused by OHV activities on public lands.
 - OHV riders are creating too many new and unauthorized trails on public lands.
 - Conservationists in Idaho should be applauded for their efforts to preserve our natural treasures.
 - Adults should be required to wear helmets while riding an ATV or a motorcycle in Idaho.

Using the **scale on which 1=Low Priority, and 3=High Priority**, indicate **your priority level** for how to distribute **OHV program money** among following OHV programs.

Figure 4.



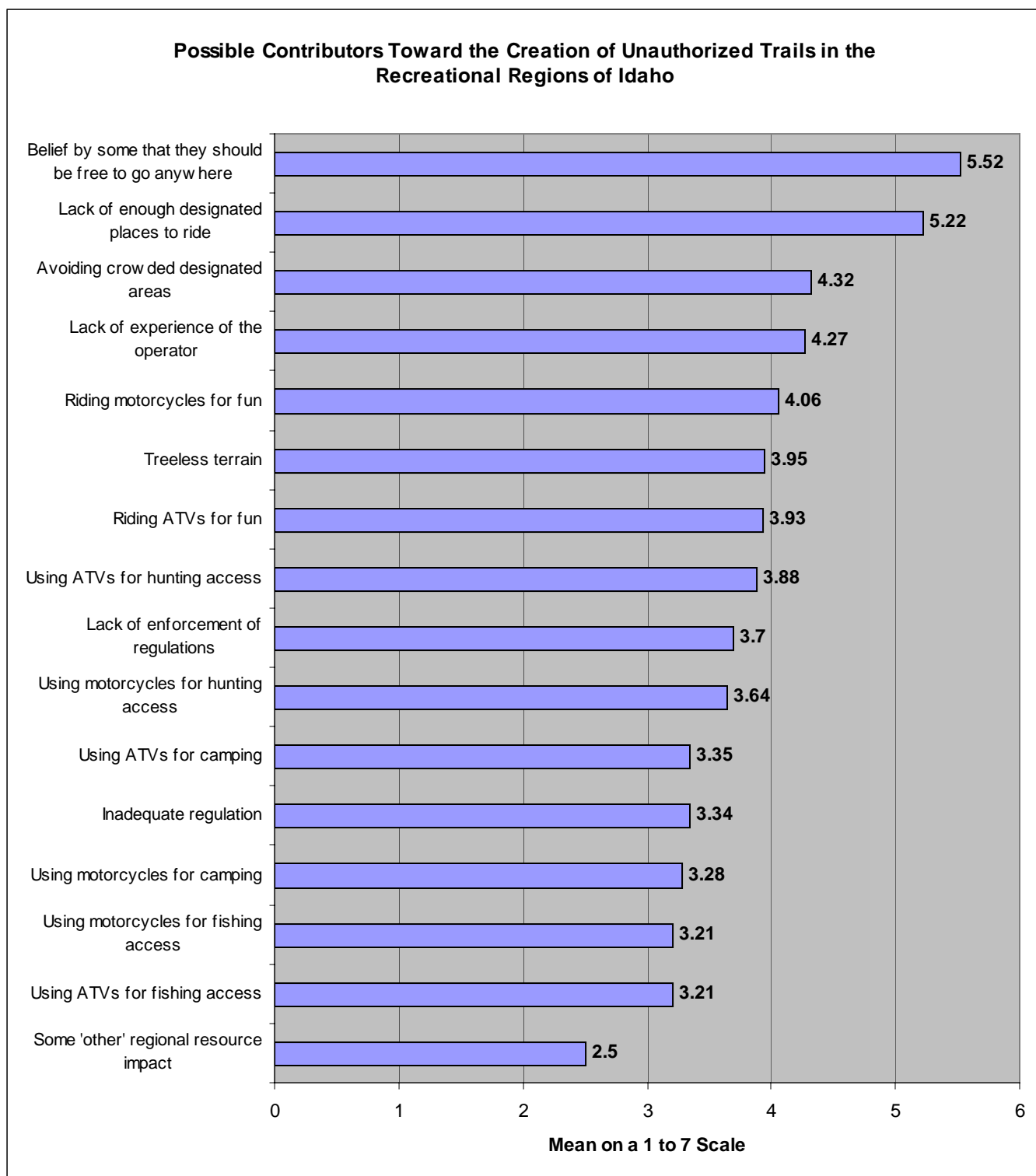
**Full Texts of Labels in the “Priority Areas for OHV Program Money”
in Figure 4 Above**

- Maintain and restore existing OHV areas and trails.
- Information programs such as area/route maps, signing of trails and access points.

- Plan, develop and acquire land for new OHV areas.
- Repair damage caused by unauthorized OHV use.
- Volunteer programs.
- Natural resource education programs such as low impact training and resource awareness.
- Safety education programs such as safe OHV operation.
- Fee collection programs (like OHV stickers).
- Support facilities for OHV areas such as loading ramps, washing areas, parking lots, campgrounds, etc.
- Law enforcement/patrol.
- Special event management.
- OHV money should go to some other priority area.

**Possible Contributors Toward the Creation of Unauthorized Trails in the
Recreational Regions of Idaho**

Figure 5.



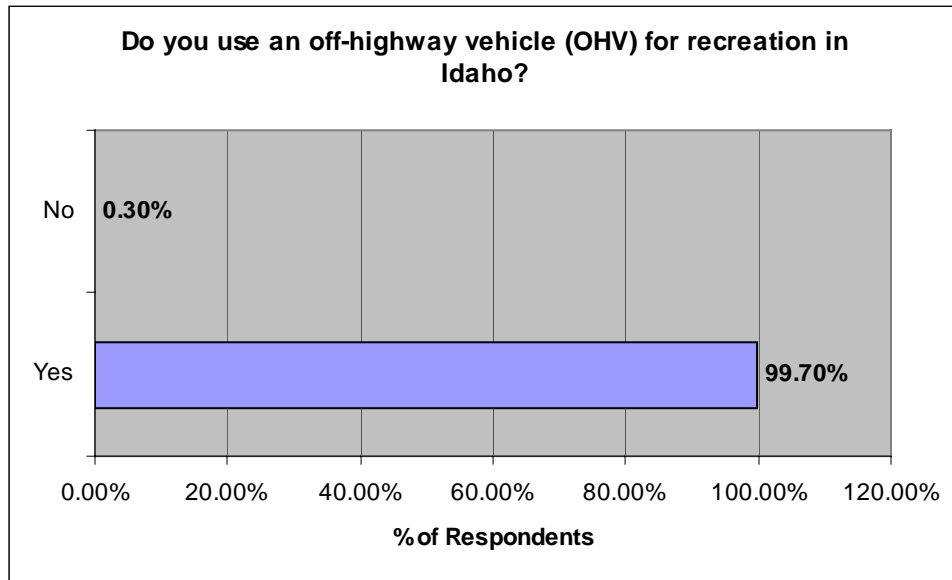
Full Texts of Labels in the “Possible Contributors Toward the Creation of Unauthorized Trails in the Recreational Regions of Idaho” in Figure 5 Above

- The belief by some OHV riders that they should be free to go anywhere for outdoor recreation.
- Lack of enough designated places to ride.
- Avoiding crowded designated areas.
- Lack of experience of the operator.
- Riding motorcycles for fun.
- Riding ATVs for fun.
- Using ATVs for hunting access.
- Treeless terrain.
- Lack of enforcement of regulations.
- Using a motorcycle for hunting for hunting access.
- Inadequate regulation.
- Using ATVs for camping.
- Using motorcycles for camping.
- Using ATVs for fishing access.
- Using motorcycles for fishing access.
- Some “other” possible regional resource impact of OHV activities in Idaho.

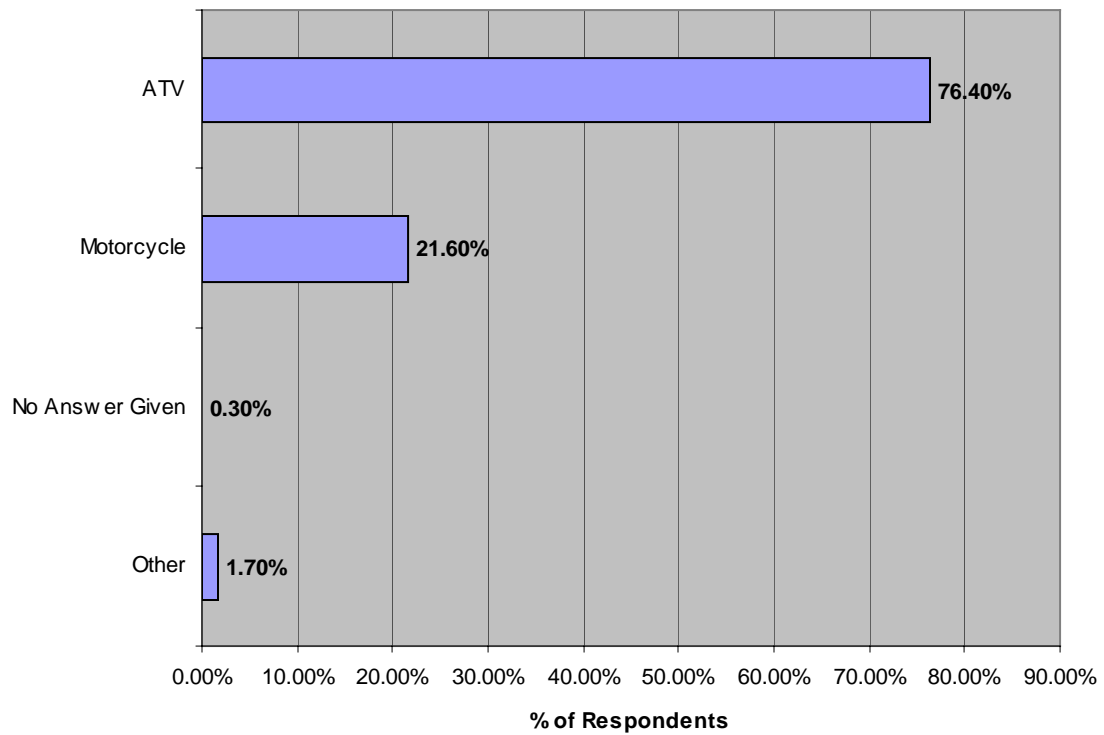
Detailed Frequencies:

Demographics, Opinions and Recreational Use Patterns of OHV Owners in Idaho

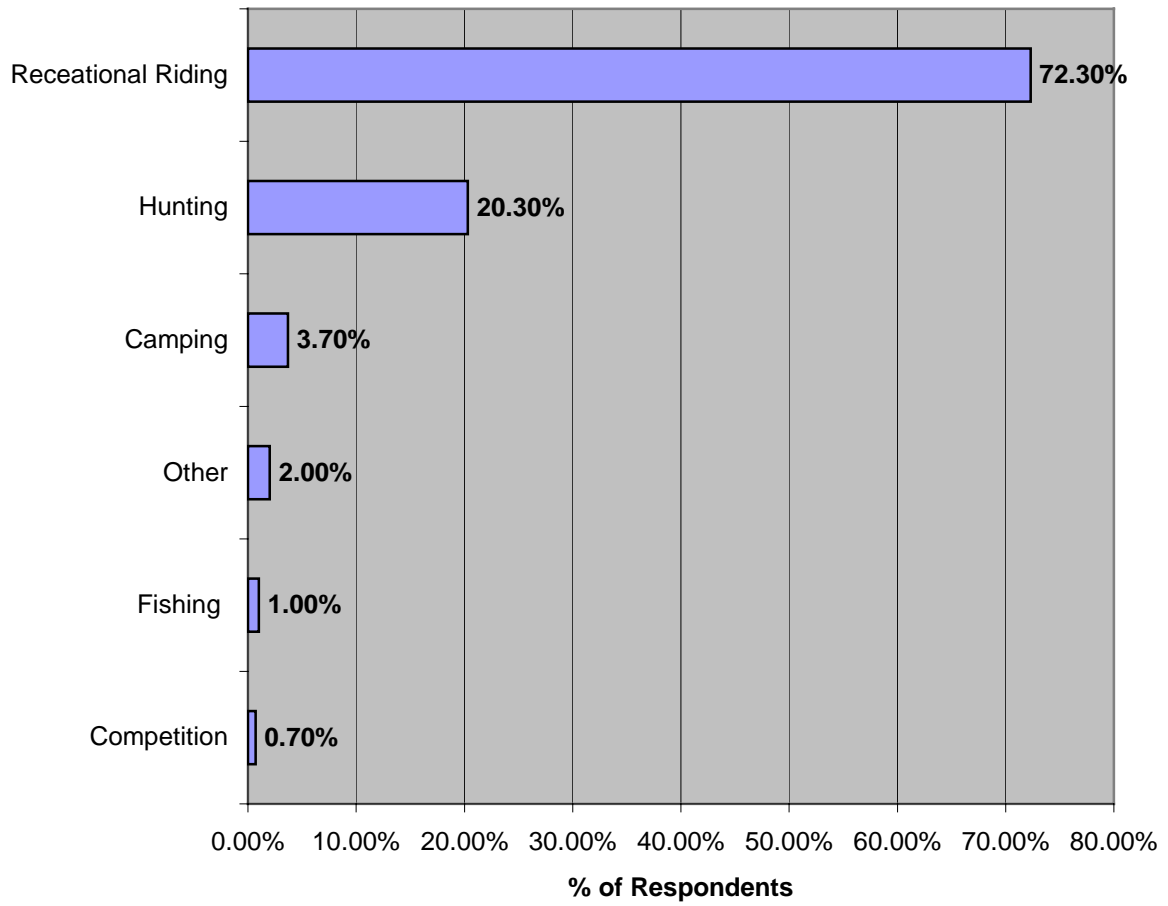
The sample size for all the following frequency statistics is 296, which was the number of respondents (out of a total of 336), who owned their OHVs.



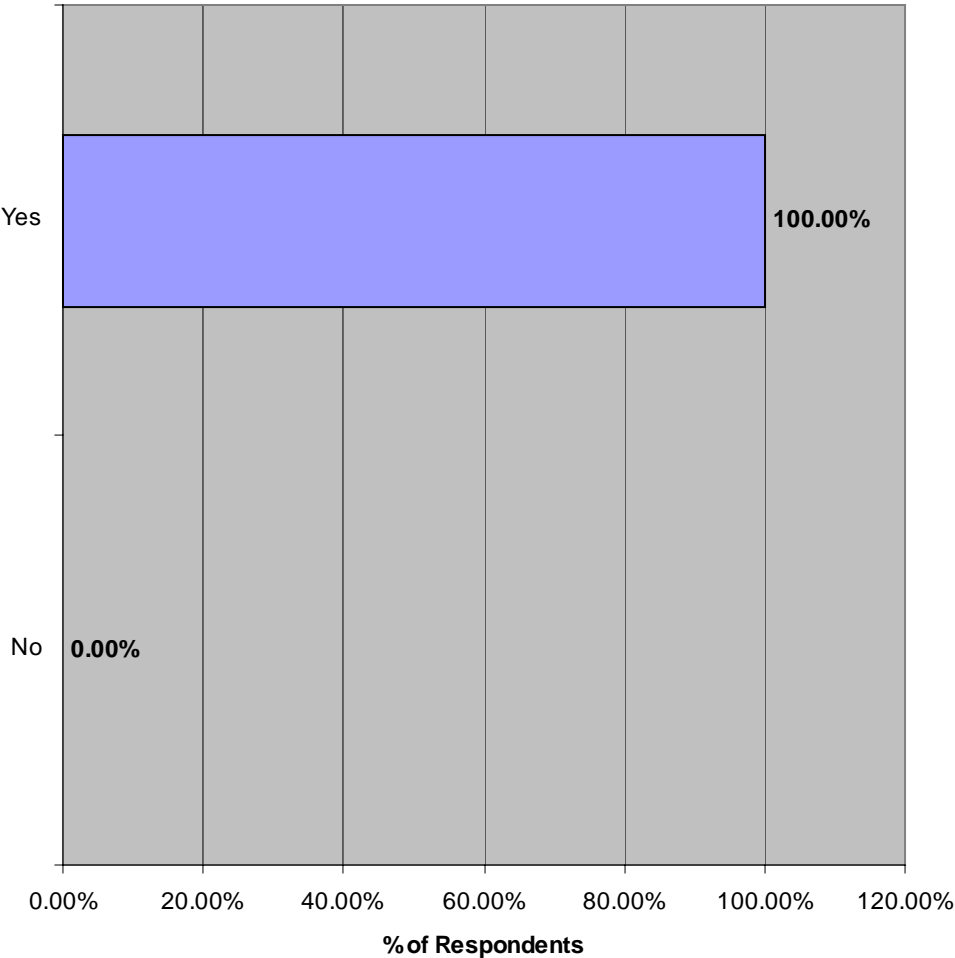
Which is the Primary Type of OHV that you Use for Recreation in Idaho?



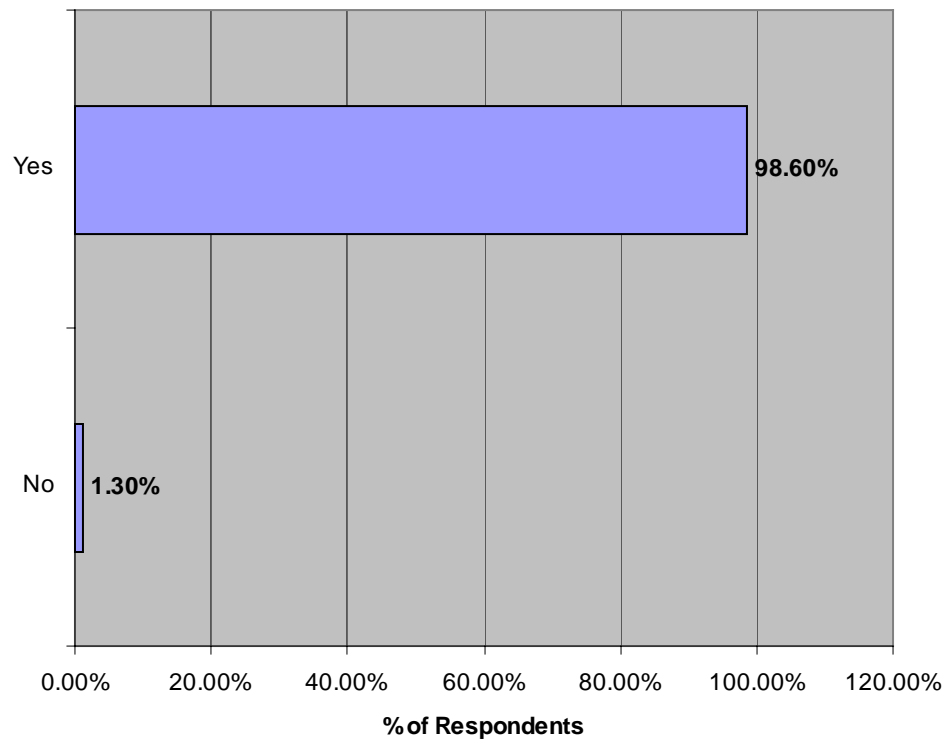
**What is the Primary Type of Recreation in which you Use your
Primary Type of OHV?**



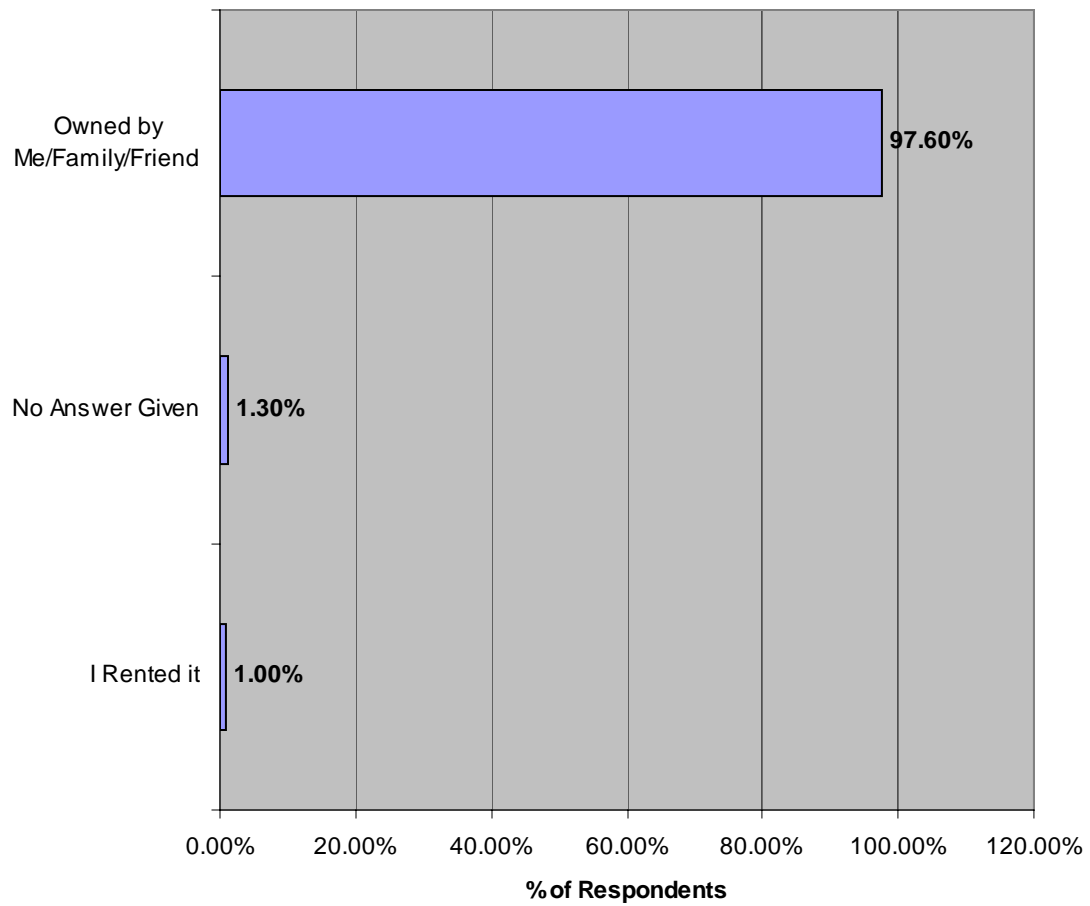
Do you Own an OHV?



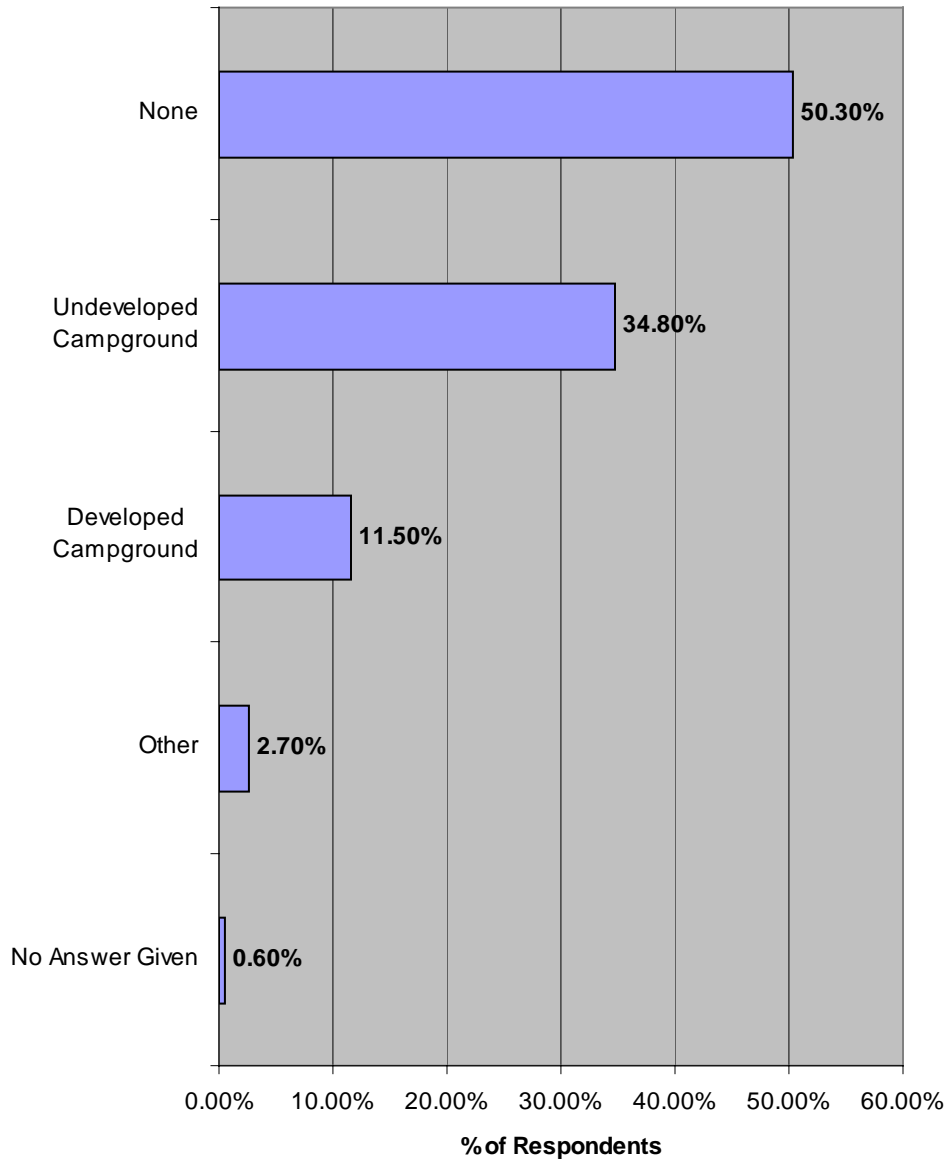
**Did you Operate an OHV on Public Lands in Idaho in the
Past 12 Months?**



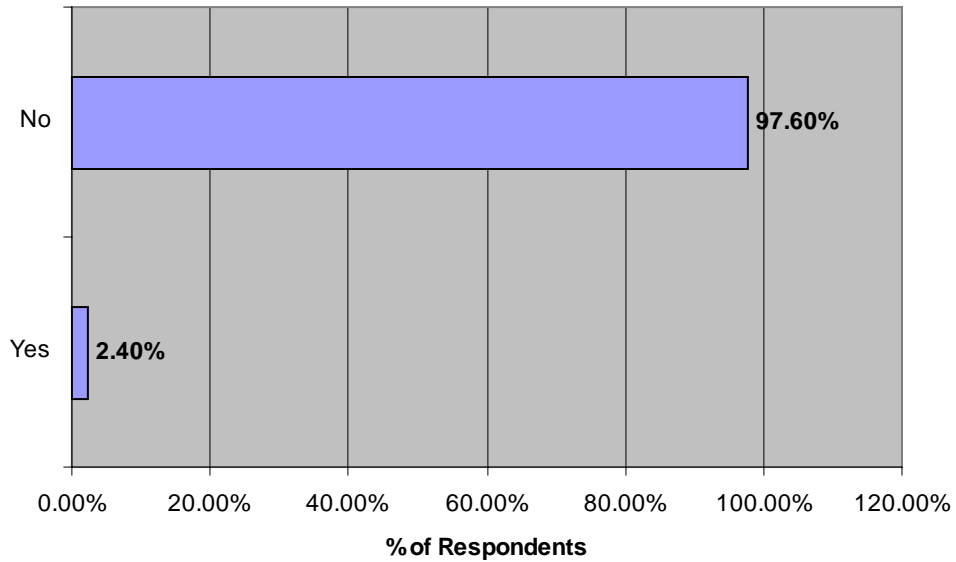
Did you, your Family, or a Friend Own the OHV that you Operated in Idaho in the Last 12 Months?



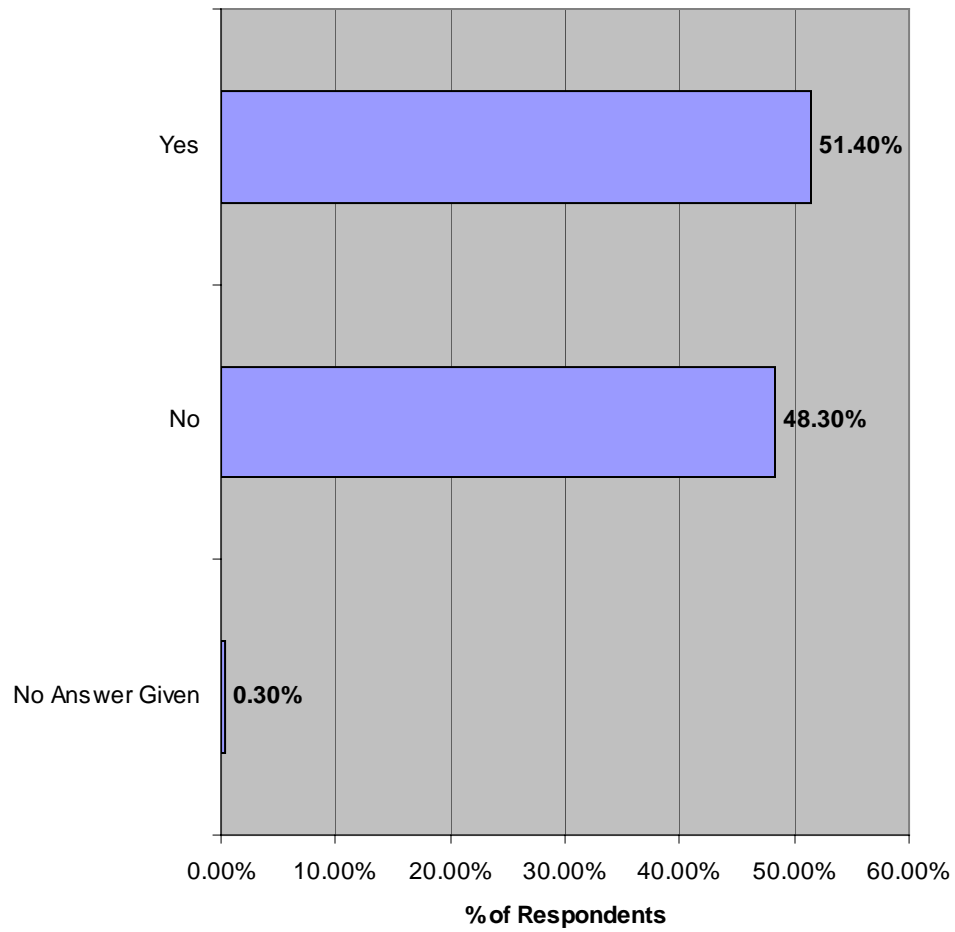
Given the Choice, What Type of Campsite would you Prefer to Use While Operating an OHV on Public Lands?



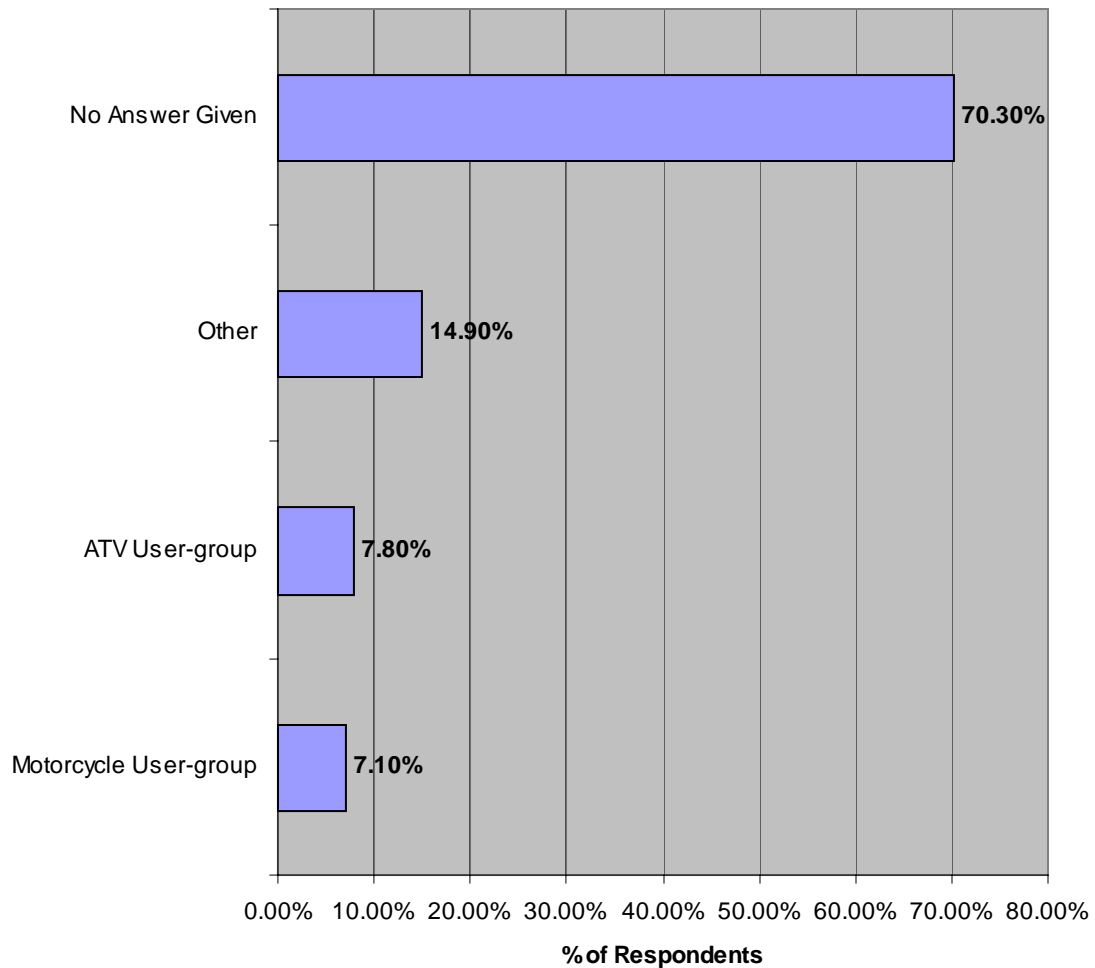
**Did you or anyone in your OHV Riding Group Experience an
OHV-related Injury on Public Lands, Requiring Medical
Attention in the Past 12 Months?**



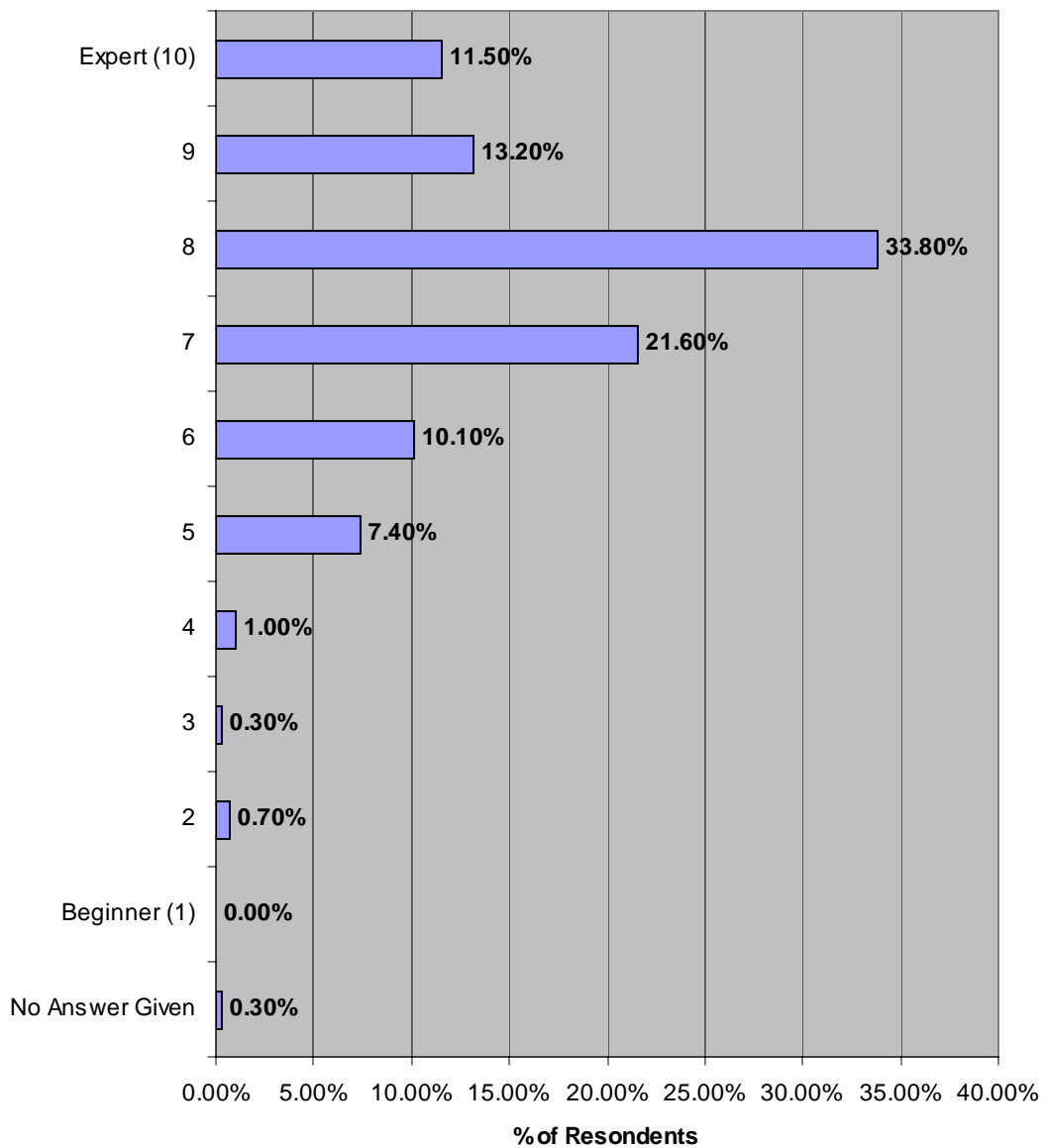
Would you be Interested in Registering your OHV(s) Online?



Do you Belong to an Organized OHV User-group of Any of the Following Types?

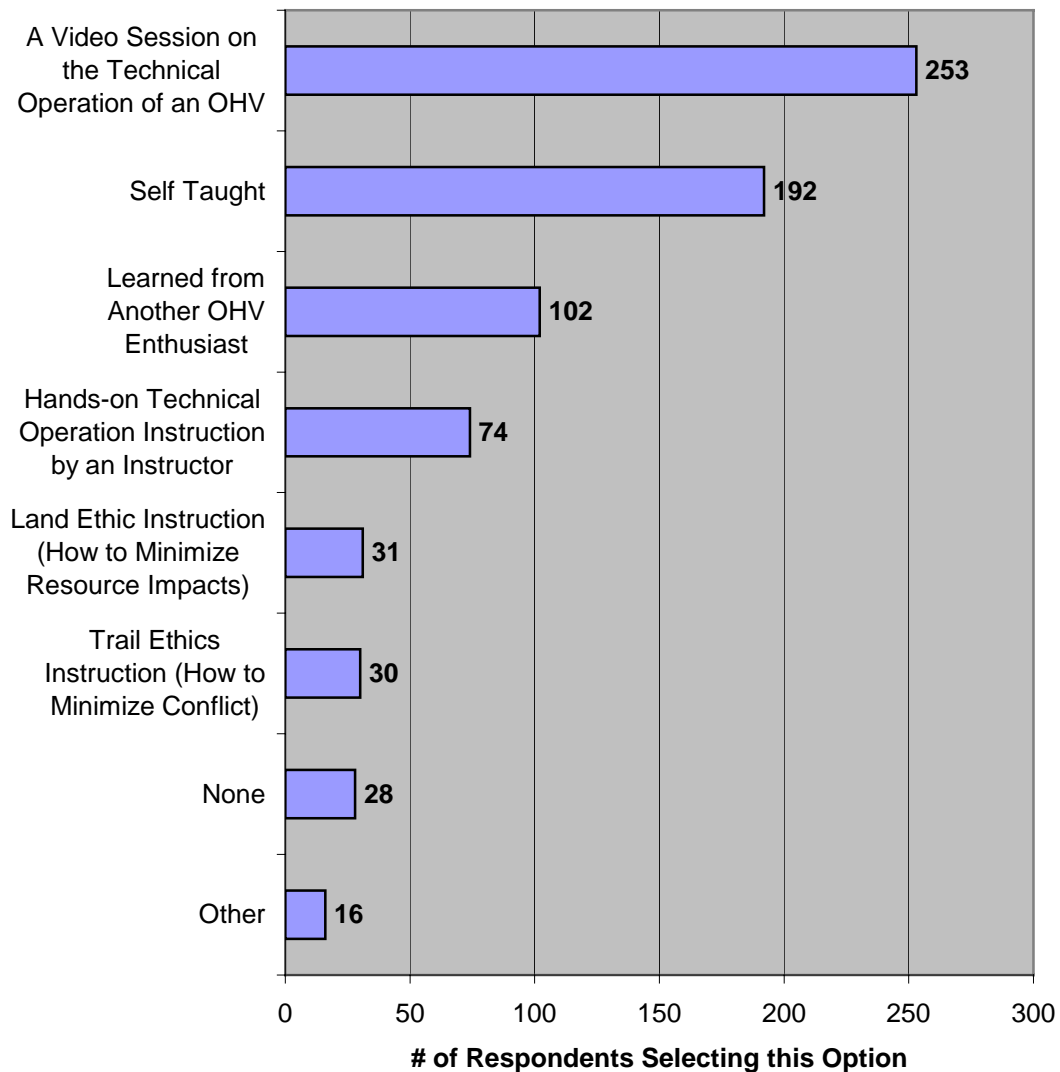


What is your Level of Riding Skill for your Primary OHV?

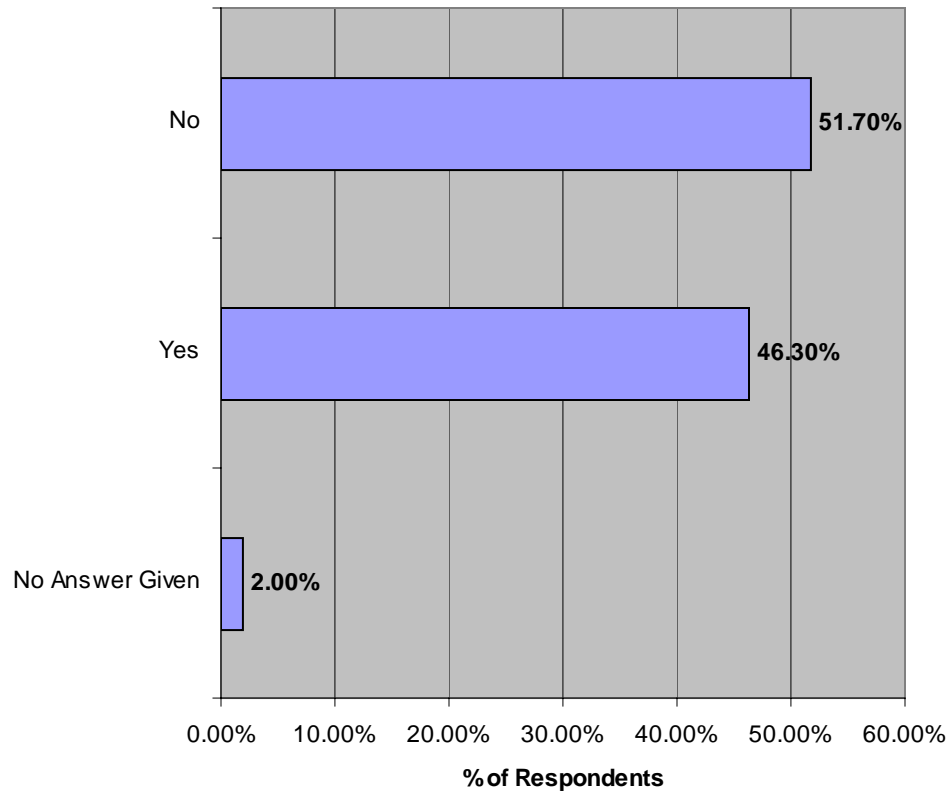


What Training did you have Prior to your First OHV Riding Experience?

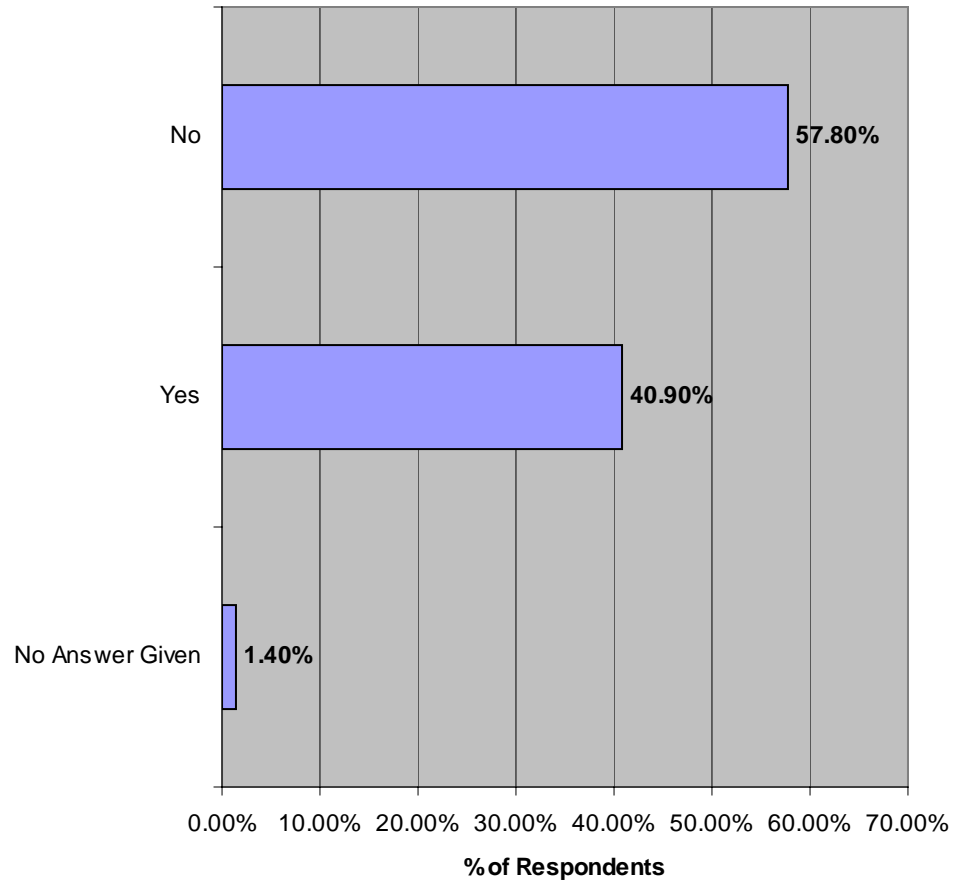
(# of respondents selecting each option, out of 296 respondents)



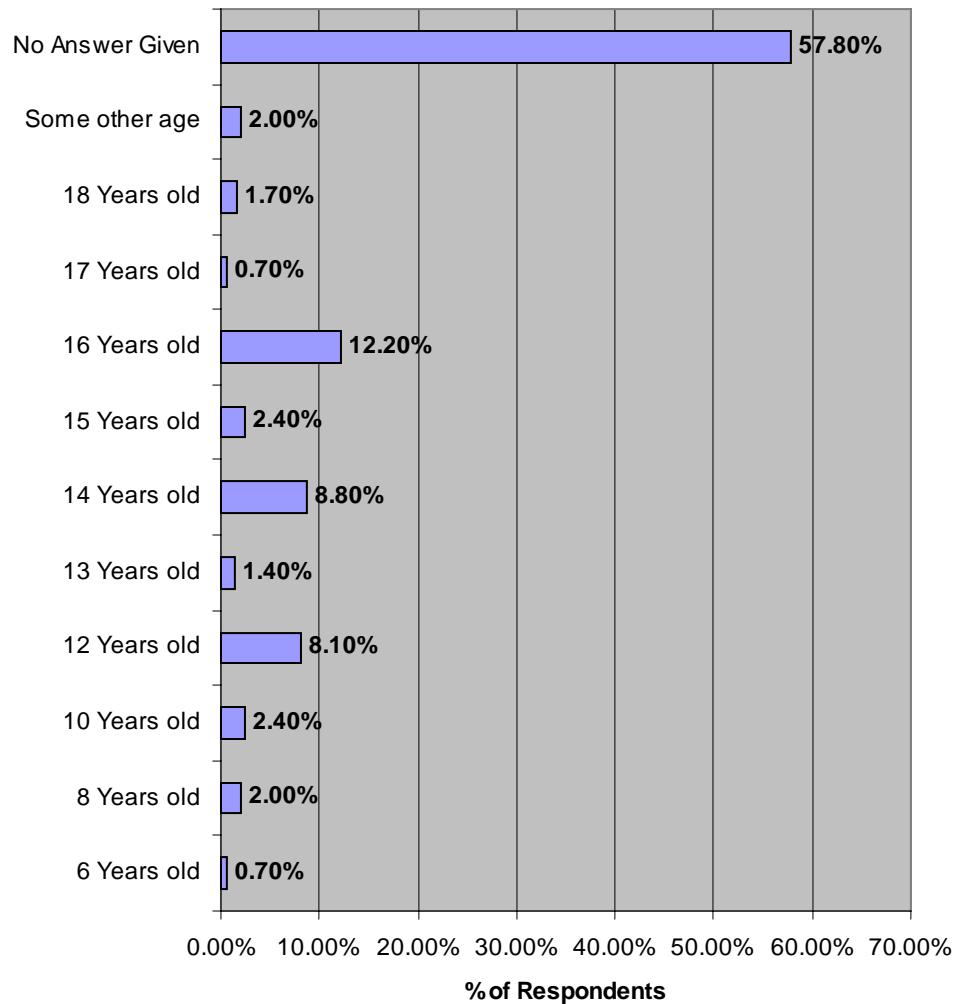
When you were Growing Up, did your Parents or Close Relative Use an Off-highway Vehicle for Recreation?



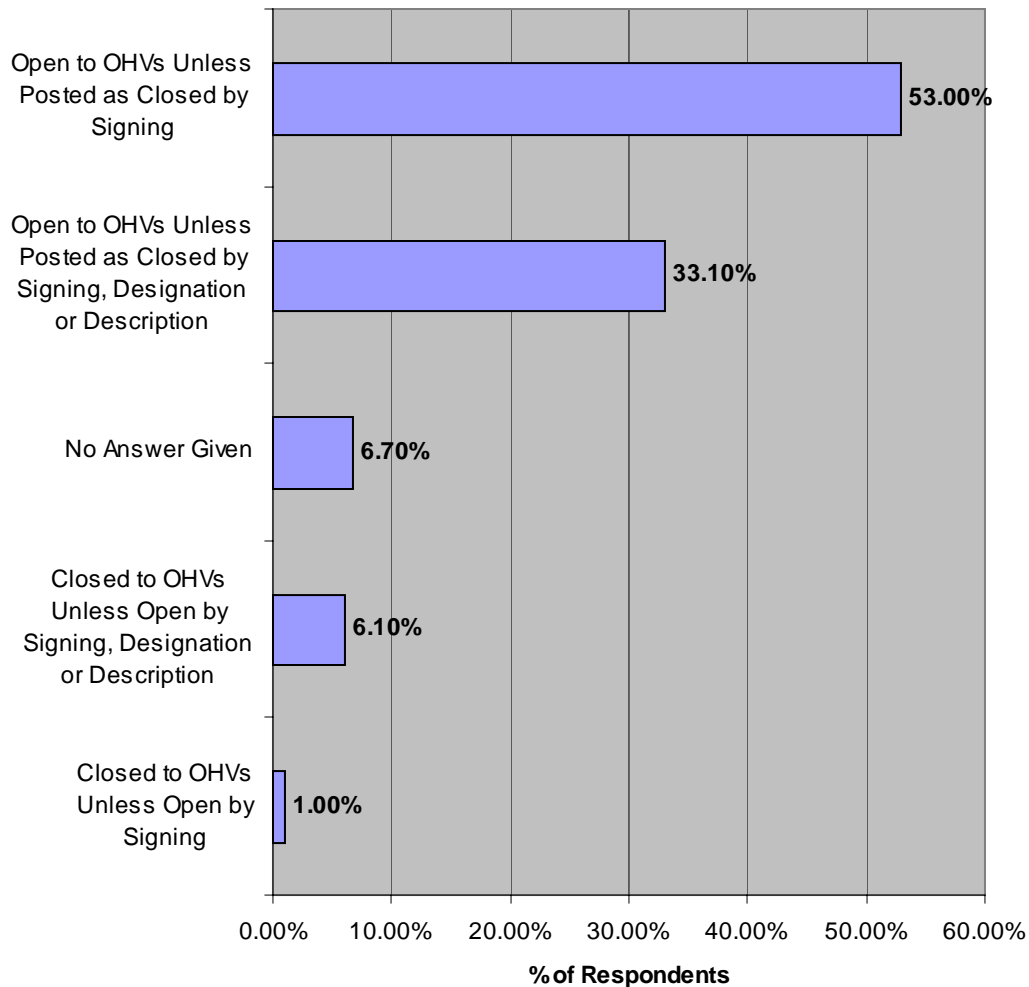
Is there a Need to Establish a Standard Minimum Age Requirement for Operating OHVs in Recreation Areas, Trails, and Roads on All Public Lands in Idaho?



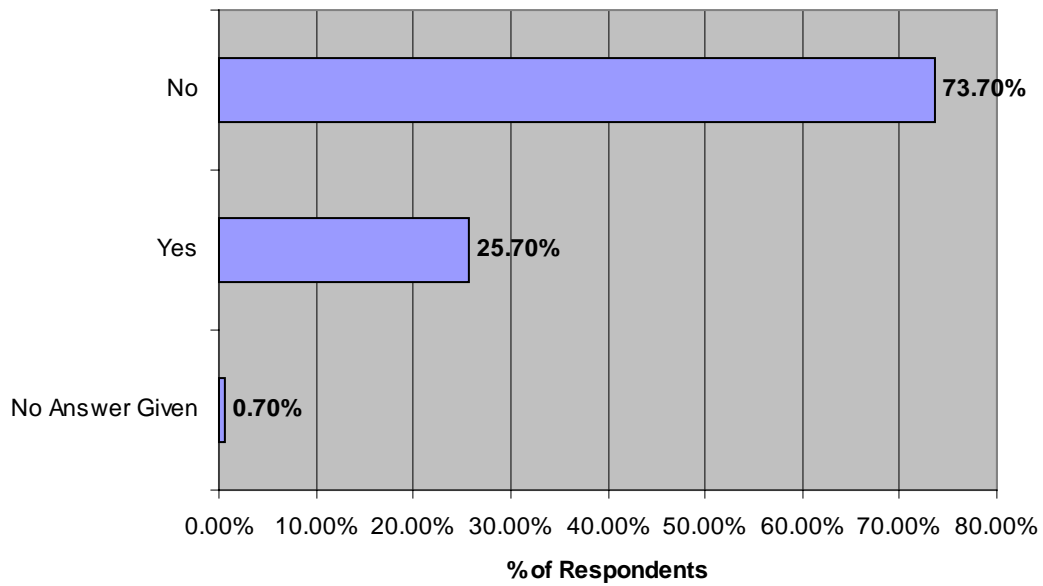
**Which Specific Minimum Age would you Prefer as the
Threshold for Operating an OHV on Public Lands in Idaho?**



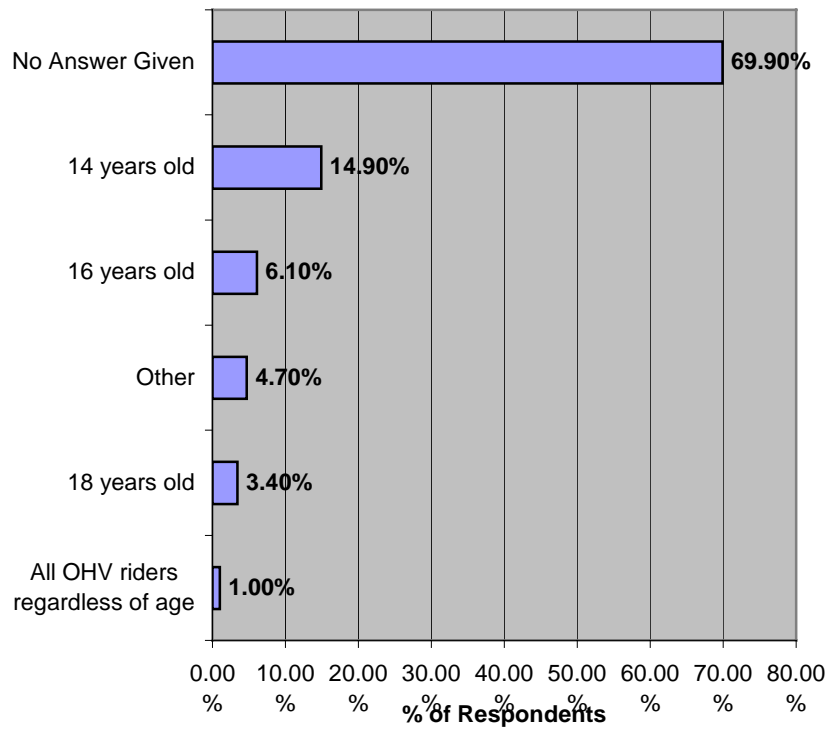
**Which of the Following Alternatives would be Ideal for Creating
Uniform OHV Access Requirements to all Recreation Areas, Trails
and Roads in Idaho Public Lands?**



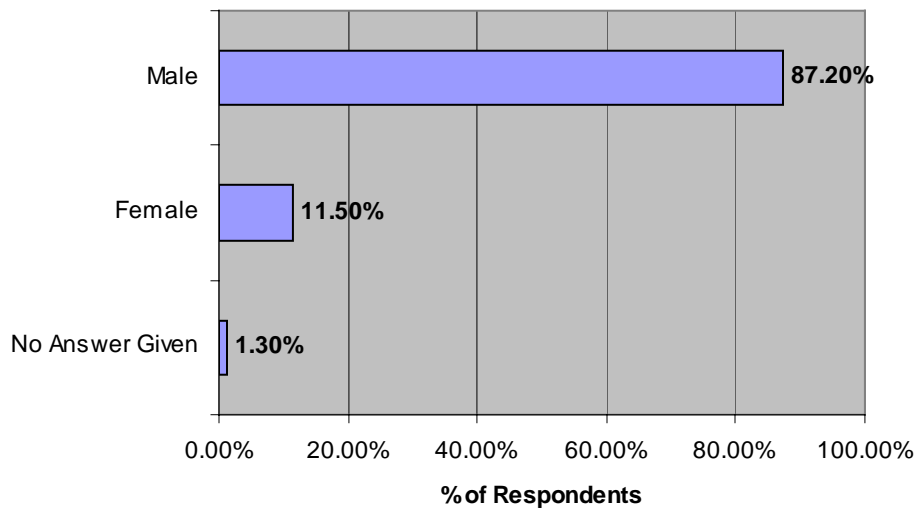
**Is there an Need to Create a Mandatory OHV Education Program
that OHV Operators Must Take as a Requirement for Operating
OHVs on Public Lands in Idaho?**

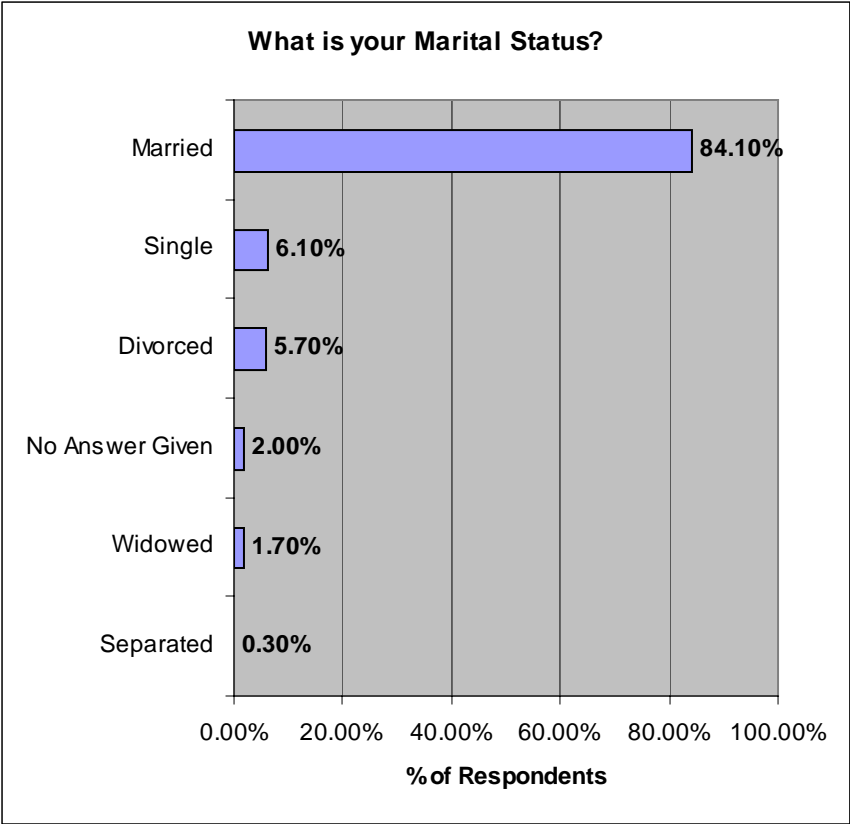


At What Age Should it be Required to Take a Mandatory OHV Education Program in Order to Ride OHVs

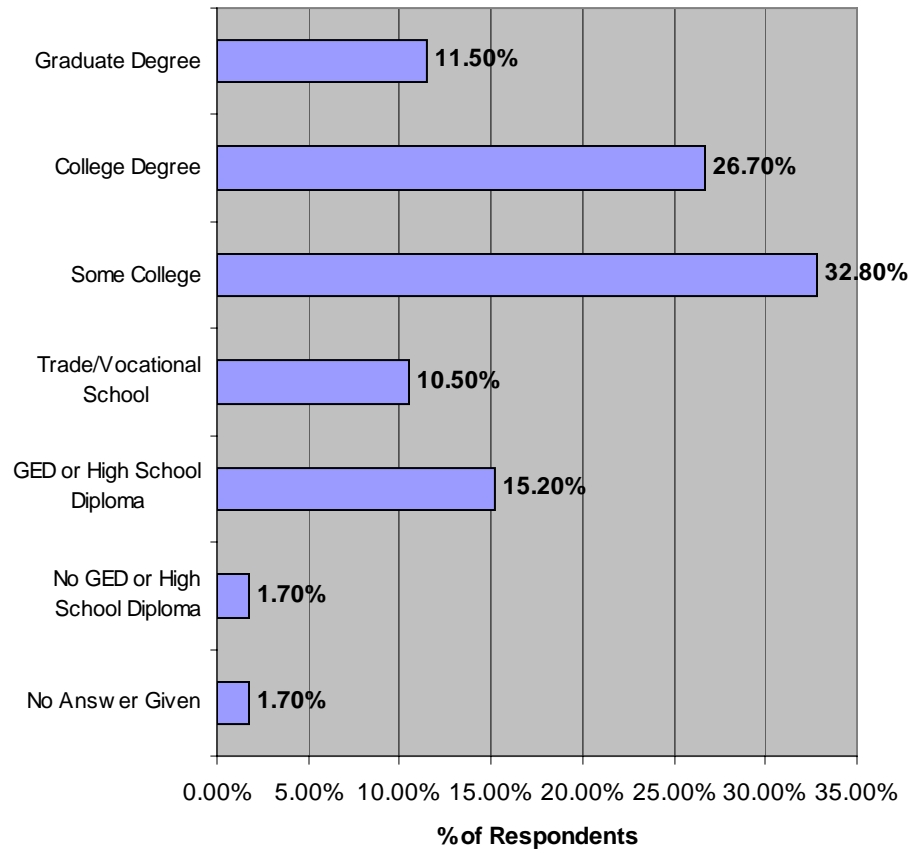


Are you Male or Female?

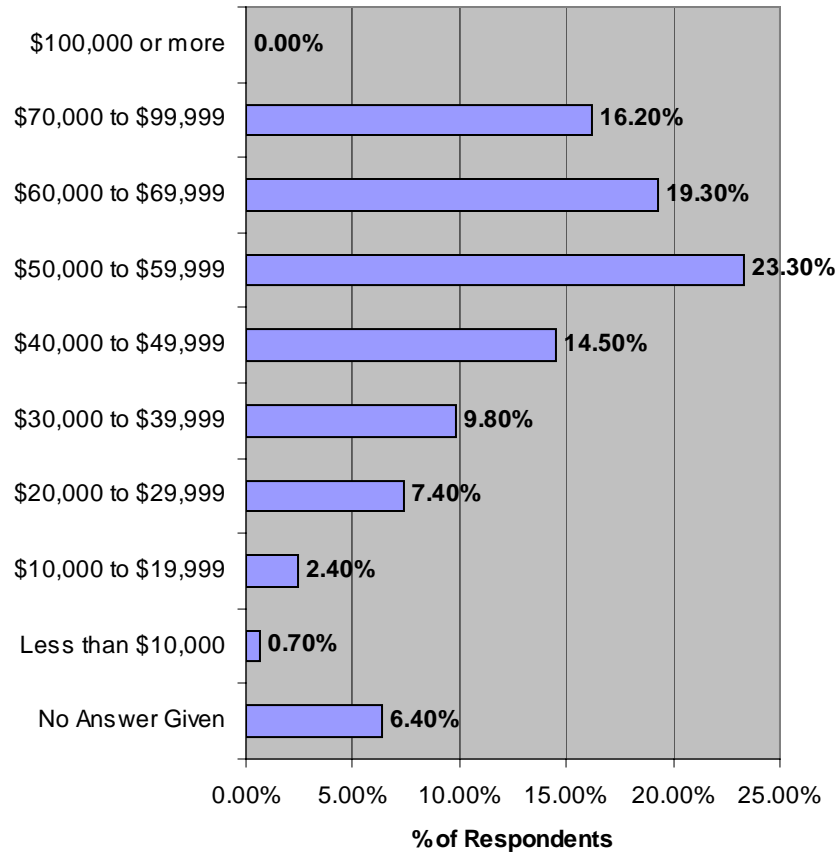


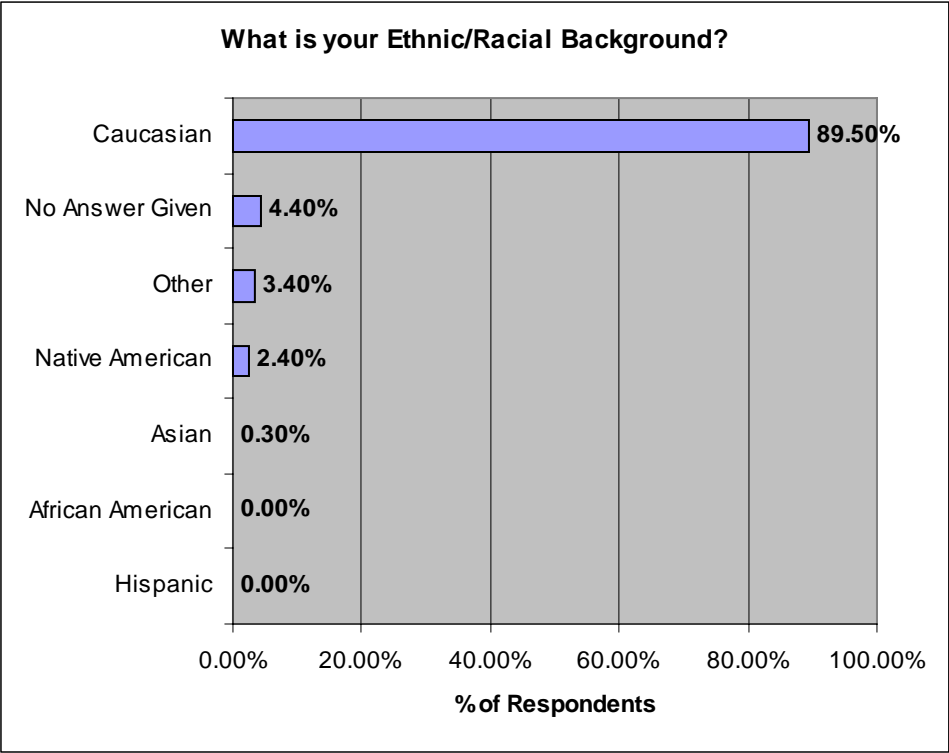


What is the Highest Level of Formal Education that you Attained?

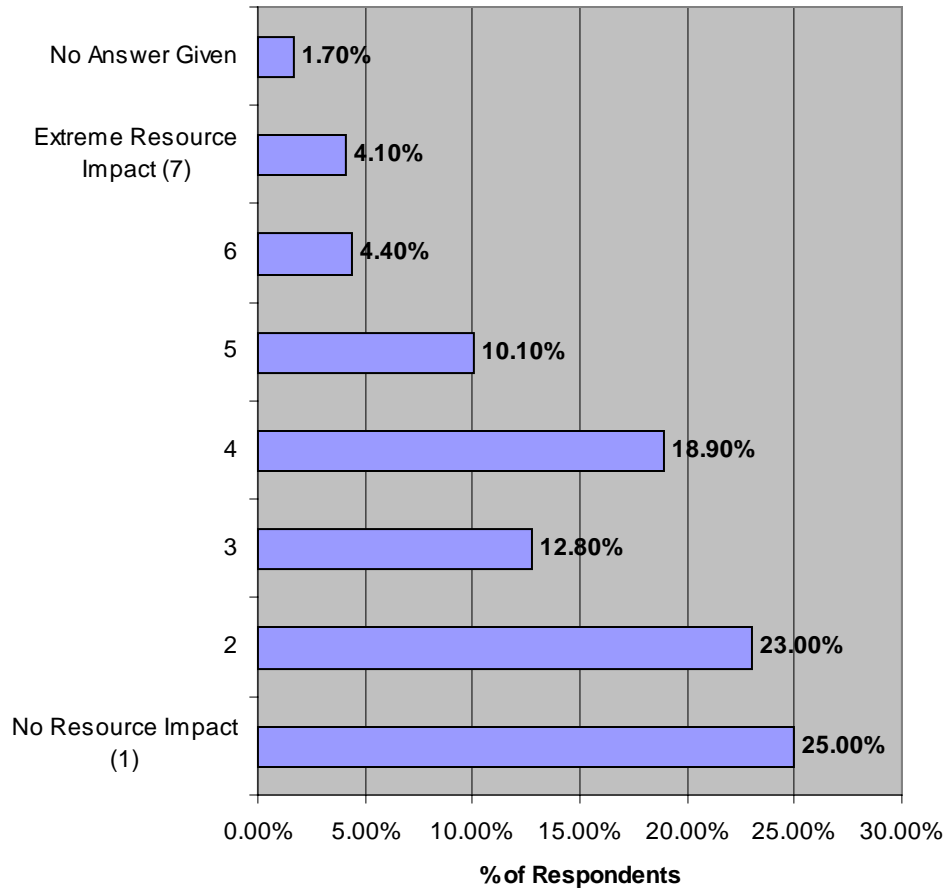


What is your Household Total Annual Income?





**To What Extent do OHV-user-created Cross-country Trails
Impact the Resource at the Recreation Areas where you
Regularly Recreate on Public Lands?**



Opinions and Recreational Use Patterns of OHV Owners in Idaho

Issues of Concern at OHV Use Sites:

To what extent do you think that each of the following is an important concern at the recreation areas that you most frequently use?

1. Too many rules and regulations

